VZCZCXRO3212 PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH DE RUEHKO #0704 0890130 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 300130Z MAR 09 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1867 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUYNAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3221 RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5563 RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0951 RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3763 RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7015 RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8496 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2771 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4524 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4388 RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - CHINA AND U.S. PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

- 11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Monday morning included the victory of an LDP candidate in Sunday's Chiba gubernatorial election.
- ¶2. "International Community Should Also Offer Ideas" The liberal Asahi editorialized (3/30): "The Obama administration, which has stated that it will concentrate its efforts of fighting terrorists in Afghanistan, unveiled a comprehensive strategy on Afghanistan... The situation in Afghanistan tells us that it is clear that military power alone will not create victory. The influence of Pakistan cannot be ignored in the fight against and in negotiations with the Taliban. We welcome the direction of the new U.S. strategy, which combines military, civilian, and diplomatic power... President Obama's argument that Afghanistan is not an issue just for America to solve is reasonable... President Obama, who will visit Europe this week to attend the G20 summit, will hold talks with leaders of NATO nations, Russia, and China. Japan will host an international donor conference for Pakistan next month. Based on the U.S. strategy, each nation should present its own ideas to contribute to building peace in Afghanistan.
- ¶3. "China Should Increase Transparency in its Military Buildup" The conservative Sankei's editorial argued (3/30): "The Department of Defense released its annual report on China's military power, pointing out that its transparency remains insufficient while the nation has been active in building aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines equipped with strategic nuclear missiles... The U.S. and Japan have repeatedly urged China to increase its transparency... The lack of

transparency on the part of China will arouse concern in the region and could cause misunderstanding. China should recognize its responsibility and increase transparency."

POST